



Texas Department *of* Motor Vehicles

Plan of Operation for the Automobile Burglary & Theft Prevention Authority

**Prepared for the
Texas Legislature
for
Fiscal Years 2016-2017**

December 1, 2014



Watch Your Car®
TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

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Fiscal Years 2016-2017

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Executive Summary

The mission of the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) is to foster a statewide collaborative network to combat motor vehicle theft and burglary and to fund public awareness campaigns. ABTPA fulfills its mission through grant programs to law enforcement agencies (referred to as Task Forces) and funding public awareness and prevention programs. ABTPA has worked to provide the necessary resources and administrative support required for Task Forces to successfully carry out its mission. ABTPA will use appropriated funds to maintain the effectiveness and coverage of its statewide cooperative network of law enforcement groups, prosecutors, insurance industry representatives, local tax assessor-collectors, and concerned citizens to combat vehicle theft and burglary through enforcement, prevention, public information, and education initiatives. It will work the next two years to enhance strategic partnerships that will expand the impact of this network. Any additional funds received by ABTPA will be used to expand the network.

ABTPA faces many challenges in executing its mission. Funding has remained stagnant despite an increase in population and registered vehicles in the state and an increase, though marginal, of motor vehicle thefts over the last few years. As motor vehicle technology advances, so does the sophistication of criminal organizations and activities. This puts pressure on ABTPA Task Forces to fully utilize and upgrade their resources to keep up with changes in technology and to stay ahead of criminal enterprises.

State law requires the ABTPA to submit to the legislature by December 1 of each even-numbered year, a biennial operations plan that must include:

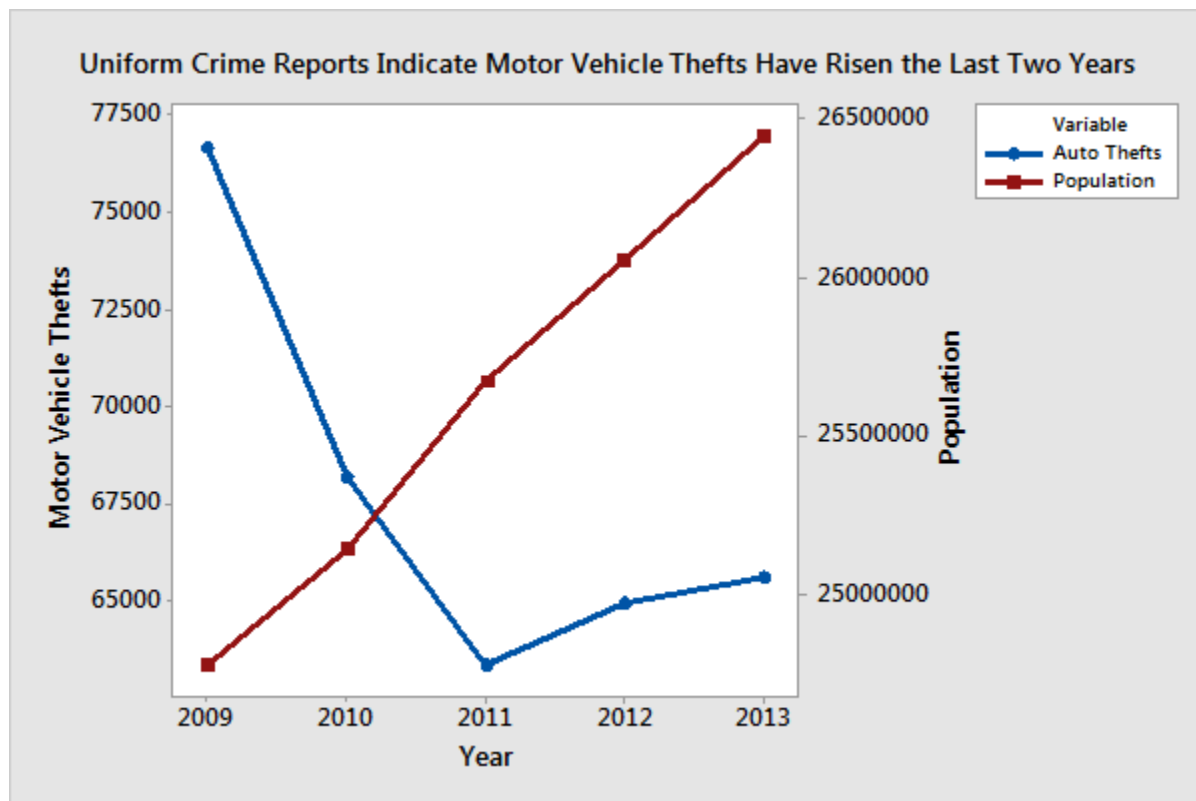
- (1) an assessment of the scope of the problems of automobile burglary or theft and economic automobile theft, including particular areas of the state where the problems are greatest;
- (2) an analysis of various methods of combating the problems of automobile burglary or theft and economic automobile theft;
- (3) a plan for providing financial support to combat automobile burglary or theft and economic automobile theft; and
- (4) an estimate of the funds required to implement the plan of operation.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) on behalf of the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority has developed the following plan for Fiscal Years 2016 -2017 in accordance with statute and ABTPA's goals and objectives.

Assessment of the Scope of the Problem of Vehicle Theft and Burglary in Texas

Since the Authority's inception in 1991, the ABTPA has been instrumental in helping local law enforcement and citizens reduce crimes relating to motor vehicle theft and burglary. Reducing the amount of vehicle thefts can also reduce and prevent other crimes which often stem from the use of stolen vehicles and property.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system, Texas experienced a decrease in motor vehicle thefts for many years. However, in recent years vehicle thefts have increased (up 2.5% in 2012 and 1.1% in 2013).



Motor vehicle theft and burglary account for almost one billion dollars in economic losses to Texans. This amounts to losses of almost \$2.3 million dollars per day! Furthermore, this figure does not take into account lost time from work of victims, insurance processing costs, additional costs related to restoring losses, and other personal costs. It is clear that motor vehicle theft and burglary are not only violations of Texans' privacy, safety, and well-being, but also a staggering cost to the public in terms of property loss.

2013 Motor Vehicle Theft & Burglary in Texas			
Type of Crime	Number	Est. Amount of Loss	Est. Average Loss
Motor Vehicle Theft	65,671	\$643,215,451	\$9,795
Thefts from a Motor Vehicle and Parts	214,294	\$193,963,506	\$905
2013 Est. Total Loss		\$837,178,957	

Source: The Texas Crime Report for 2013, Texas Department of Public Safety

Factors Impacting Motor Vehicle Theft and Burglary

Three major factors influence the motor vehicle theft and burglary: rapid population increase, technological and organizational advancements of modern day criminals and people not being aware of their role in protecting their cars and possessions.

First, since 1991, the Texas population has increased by more than 50%. This resulted in an increase in the number of motor vehicles and created more opportunities for individual criminals and criminal enterprises to commit motor vehicle theft and burglary. Although both the population and number of motor vehicles in Texas have increased, the resources to combat motor vehicle theft and burglary have not increased. This can partially be attributed to stagnant funding which has limited the ABTPA's ability to increase financial support.

The costs of motor vehicle theft and burglary are felt by not only the owners of the vehicles stolen but by the general public as well. High rates of motor vehicle theft result in higher automobile insurance rates for all insured drivers. Furthermore, evidence collected by ABTPA Task Forces has shown that motor vehicle theft and burglary serve as methods to fund and support a broad range of other criminal activities, such as human trafficking, robbery and narcotics distribution.

Second, a significant amount of the reduction of theft is from technological advancements by auto manufacturers. Manufacturers have used radio-frequency identification (RFID) chips, steering column locks, wheel locks, inclination sounders to other technology to reduce motor vehicle theft and burglary. Despite these technological advancements, thieves are still able to steal vehicles with keys left inside, or through on-line sell and leasing scams, and by physically moving vehicles to chop shops where the parts are sold. Thieves also have developed technologies like key cloning, key sniffing, tracking signal jamming, and VIN cloning to steal or burglarize automobiles and avoid detection.

The final challenge ABTPA and its Task Forces face are educating the community on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of motor vehicle theft and burglary. Much of opportunistic type crimes like motor vehicle theft and burglary can be eliminated through educating and changing the behavior of potential victims. Well designed and presented prevention programs are one of the successful components of this statewide program. Therefore, educating Texans about the importance of their role in preventing crime will go a long way toward reducing motor vehicle theft and burglary.

Motor Vehicle Theft and Burglary by Geographic Area

Border Areas

Communities along the state's border with Mexico have seen increases in automobile theft and burglary while funding to combat these problems has remained stagnant. The problems with motor vehicle theft and burglary in the border regions are quite different from the problems experienced in other parts of the state. One example demonstrating this issue is that the local recovery rate for stolen vehicles is only 41% compared to the statewide rate of 73%. The proximity to the border provides unique challenges. Because of static funding, many Texas border counties are not served by an ABTPA Task Force.

International Ports of Entry

Stolen vehicles from around the state and nation end up in border communities as thieves attempt to cross international bridges into Mexico and sell the vehicles for economic profit. The high volume of traffic crossing the international border in both directions makes it difficult to effectively monitor the various ports of entry to intercept stolen vehicles before they leave the country. Also, expansive major and minor roadways in the border area provide ample opportunity to remove stolen vehicles across the border.

Organized Criminal Activity

The Texas-Mexico border provides a significant connection between motor vehicle theft sites throughout the state and an extensive distribution network in Mexico. The distribution networks in Mexico are supported by increases in cartel/gang violence that has hampered investigations, recovery of stolen vehicles and the apprehension of suspects. Also, stolen vehicles are frequently used by gangs/cartels to commit further crimes. Vehicles stolen in Texas have been modified with armor to make them more dangerous for both law enforcement and rival gangs.

Fraudulent Titles & Registration

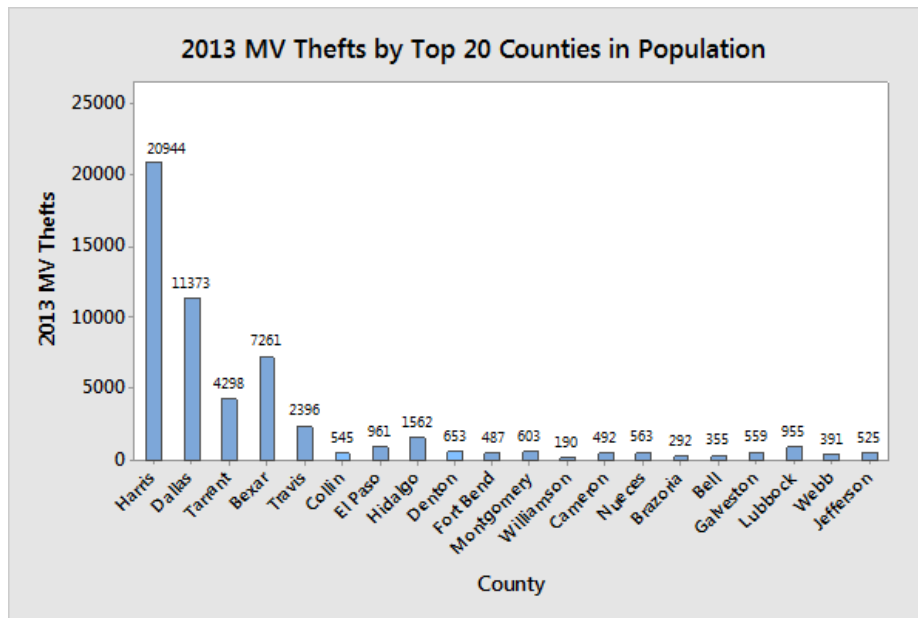
Vehicles stolen in Mexico are often brought into the United State with fraudulent documentation. Title application and other documents for those vehicles are then falsified to legitimize the vehicles. As a result, County Tax Assessor-Collector offices find it increasingly difficult to process and validate multi-national title and registration documents presented in their offices.

**Photos of Pick-ups Stolen in Texas and Converted to Armored Vehicles in Mexico -
Courtesy National Insurance Crime Bureau**

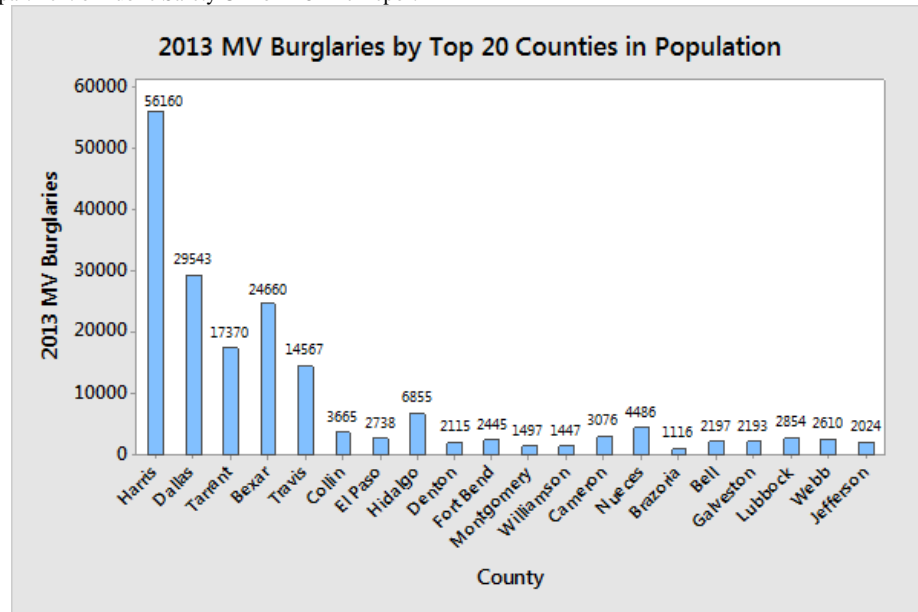


Urban Areas

The urban areas of the state have the highest numbers of motor vehicle theft and burglary. Historically, ABTPA Task Forces have been concentrated in the urban areas due to the size of the motor vehicle theft problem. The size of the problem is demonstrated in the graphs below.



Source: Texas Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Report



Source: Texas Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Report

Organized Crime Activity

Theft rings and/or gangs steal or burglarize vehicles for economic profit and to utilize in the commission of other crimes. Organized crime networks, such as the Florida's "Felony Lane Gang," have been flying into major Texas cities and stealing and burglarizing motor vehicles. Law enforcement agencies are vulnerable when dealing with interstate crime unless they are using network resources like ABTPA Task Forces.

Shopping Malls, Businesses, and Dealerships

Businesses in urban areas, especially shopping malls and car dealerships, provide thieves with highly dense and convenient targets for motor vehicle theft and burglary. Vehicles are left unattended and security is often minimal.

Salvage Yards

Salvage yards provide thieves an opportunity to dispose of the vehicles, parts, and property they steal. Improper documentation of vehicles and parts being purchased by or delivered to salvage yards can provide quick profits to thieves. Also, some salvage vehicle dealers switch, remove, alter, or obliterate Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) on vehicles which makes the recovery of such vehicles very difficult.

Fraudulent Title & Registration

Third party title registration businesses and used car dealers fraudulently title or provide license plates defrauding both the state and citizens of Texas. County Tax Assessor-Collector offices are often not staffed or trained to detect complex title washing or fraud activities which makes it easier for thieves to profit from stolen vehicles.

Rural Areas

Most of the rural counties in Texas are not directly served by ABTPA Task Forces due to a lack of law enforcement resources. As a result, the rural areas of Texas are often home to motor vehicle theft and burglary. The lack of resources also allows illegal activities to go undetected for great lengths of time.

Chop Shops

Chop shops are places where stolen cars are dismantled for parts and accessories that are then sold for a profit. These stolen parts are unknowingly, and sometimes knowingly, purchased by body shops or repair garages to repair damaged vehicles. The individual parts are not as easily identified and they may be worth two to three times more than the entire vehicle.

Abandoned Vehicles/Arson

Vehicles stolen in urban areas are often found abandoned in rural areas and stripped of their parts. A common criminal tactic utilized is for a vehicle owner to arrange to have a vehicle “stolen” and then destroyed in a rural area for the purpose of securing monetary reimbursement from the insured’s insurance company. Also, vehicles stolen and used in conjunction with another crime are left abandoned in lightly populated rural areas.

Resource Constraints

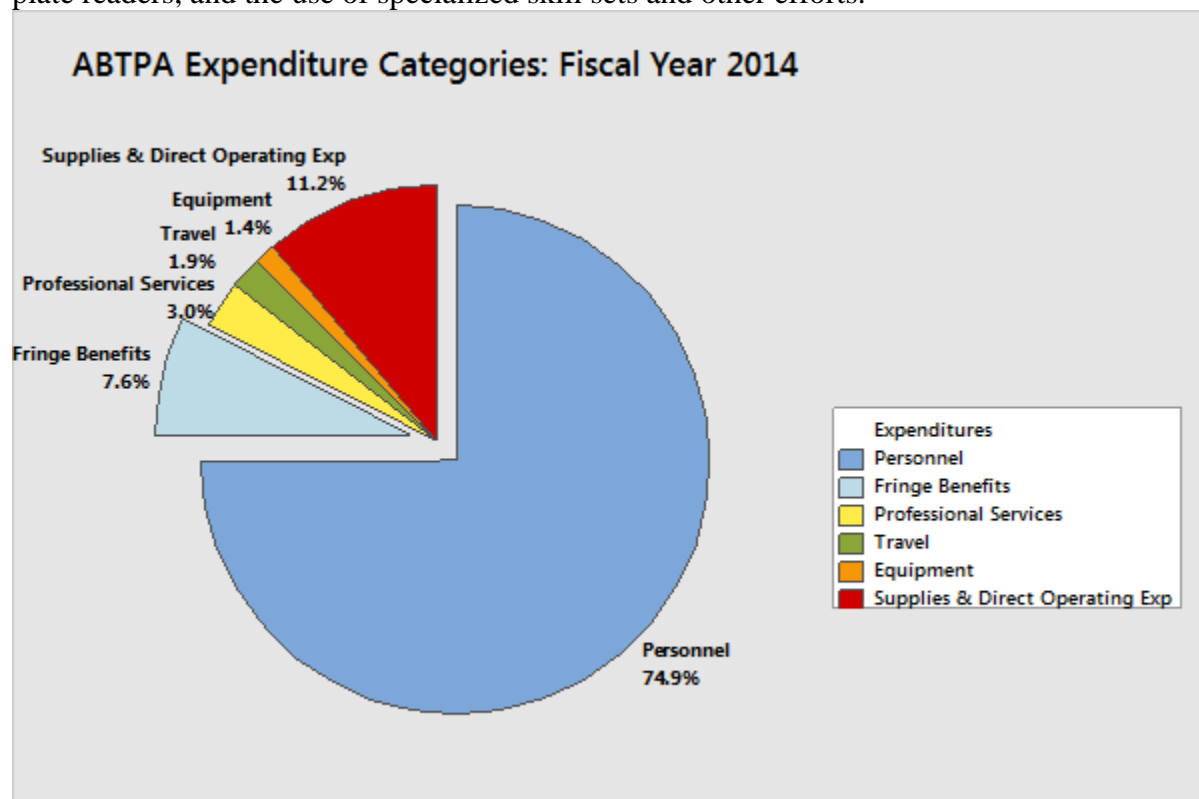
Task Forces in rural areas spend more time traveling great distances to investigate motor vehicle theft and burglary. Equipment purchased to combat auto theft may not be able to be used as often or effectively in rural areas because of transportation costs and low population density. Stagnant funding has exacerbated these constraints in rural areas.

Analysis of Methods of Combating Motor Vehicle Theft and Burglary

ABTPA Task Forces employ a host of methods to address problems relating to motor vehicle theft and burglary. Though there are a number of methods currently being used across the state, the ultimate goal is to reduce the incidences of both motor vehicle theft and burglary. ABTPA has evaluated and analyzed the current methodologies used to combat motor vehicle theft and burglary in Texas. The data realized from this analysis will be used to help develop future ABTPA Task Force methodologies and tactics.

ABTPA Task Forces

Information from the monthly progress reports provided to ABTPA by the Task Forces has been analyzed to identify the most common methods utilized to combat the problem of motor vehicle theft and burglary. The major finding of the review of the reports examining the methods used by the Task Forces is that personnel are required to perform all of them. About 82 percent of ABTPA grant funds are used for personnel combating motor vehicle theft and burglary. The primary methods used by Task Forces are multi-jurisdictional cooperation, bait vehicles, license plate readers, and the use of specialized skill sets and other efforts.



Multi-jurisdictional Cooperation is a three pronged method of combating motor vehicle theft and burglary. It consists of collaborative efforts at the international, interstate, and interlocal level. For example, ABTPA provides funds to the TxDPS-Border Auto Theft Information Center (BATIC). The chief function of BATIC is to provide U.S. and Mexican law enforcement

entities with timely information on the status of vehicles so that they may take appropriate recovery and enforcement actions.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and its counterpart in Mexico, *Oficina Coordinadora De Riesgos Asegurados* (Insurance Risk Coordination Office), provide international assistance to the ABTPA Task Forces and Mexico by verifying and retrieving stolen vehicles taken into Mexico. On the national level, ABTPA Task Forces work jointly with the NICB which provides assistance with title fraud cases and provides crime data for reporting purposes.

Collaboration and cooperative efforts are what make ABTPA Task Forces much more than local initiatives limited by defined law enforcement jurisdictions. These efforts require ABTPA Task Forces to work together to apprehend highly mobile suspects in an ever changing, fast paced criminal environment. ABTPA Task Force members have indicated that the cooperation and day to day interaction with multiple law enforcement agencies has resulted in a large number of arrests. Even law enforcement agencies not funded by ABTPA rely on ABTPA Task Forces for coordination. Examples include a non-ABTPA funded police department in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex which recently worked with a North Texas Task Force in a bait car deployment. Another North Texas police department has trained with and shares intelligence with an ABTPA Task Force.

Interlocal collaboration works best when TxDMV, local tax assessor collectors and law enforcement coordinate efforts. TxDMV recently changed processes when it joined Texas with many other states and the U.S. Department of Justice in the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS). This federal database contains automobile information from states, insurance carriers and the salvage industry. The vehicle history information is available to the public, and can provide valuable information about a potential purchase. Numerous stakeholders working with TxDMV on a feasibility study identified that clear titles and processes reduce motor vehicle theft. The local and state agencies working together will greatly reduce the economic incentives associated with motor vehicle theft and burglary.

Bait Vehicle Operations involve the use by Task Forces of cars and trailers that are equipped with specialized technology designed to track, record, and gather evidence against suspects who burglarize and/or steal the bait cars or trailers. Bait vehicle operations is a method that can ultimately be successful if modified for the specific areas where utilized. One North Texas ABTPA funded Task Force successfully deployed bait vehicle operations to apprehend those engaging in automobile theft and burglary for several years. Applying the same approach, a West Texas Task Force did not experience the equivalent level of success while utilizing bait vehicles. The West Texas Task Force modified their bait vehicle operation approach to deploy a bait vehicle based on integrated crime analysis information. They determined the best location to deploy the vehicle and left the vehicle running with valuable items inside the vehicle to cover the burglary aspect of the strategy. The Task Force is now effectively deploying vehicles and apprehending suspects.

License Plate Readers (LPR's) are used to quickly scan and read license plates in an attempt to identify stolen vehicles. The technology allows the Task Forces to interface with stolen vehicle

databases and GPS location systems. In one Task Force, portable LPR's proved more effective in the recovery of stolen vehicles, yet other Task Forces continue to successfully use stationary LPR's.

Specialized Skillsets relate to those expert techniques and highly specific knowledge base unique to members of ABTPA Task Forces. These specialized skillsets have been cultivated via focused trainings courses, interagency information sharing, and real life scenarios. These skillsets use modern investigative techniques and automotive technology. A recent example is a manufacturer's defect was discovered by a Task Force. Motorcycles were being stolen by changing one electronic part. The Task Force notified the manufacturer of the problem who was able to correct the defect in the part.

Salvage/Used Car dealership inspections – ABTPA Task Forces conduct both routine and ad hoc inspections to validate dealers' records and paperwork to ensure compliance with state law. The Task Forces also check for any stolen vehicles or stolen vehicle parts, fraudulent titles, or evidence of false documentation schemes while conducting these inspections.

VIN inspections (also referred to as 68A Inspections) – ABTPA Task Forces often perform Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) inspections for citizens seeking titles to motor vehicles when the VIN is missing or was never assigned. This often occurs when title paperwork is questioned or in cases of "homemade" trailers needing to be titled or registered. The inspection supports the operations of the local Tax Assessor Collector Offices and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. The auto theft investigator verifies the VIN or indicates the VIN is missing, altered, or obliterated, and reports the finding on a Form VTR-68-A. They also ensure that the VIN does not match vehicles that are reported stolen. Without this service citizens could not register unidentified vehicles in the State. Currently this service is not available consistently throughout the state requiring citizens to travel to the nearest Task Force location. The inspections can cost citizens up to \$40. Following the inspection, a TxDMV Regional Service Center assigns or reassigns a VIN and provides it on a department form. The Task Forces often identify stolen vehicles and trailers while performing these inspections.

Border Bridge Operations – ABTPA Task Forces along the border conduct both routine and ad hoc inspections of vehicles entering and leaving Mexico.

Public Awareness

Educating Texas drivers about how they can protect themselves from becoming an automobile crimes victim is an important role for the ABTPA. The "Watch Your Car" logo and other media efforts have broad appeal and are familiar to many Texans. The ABTPA and its Task Forces have increased public awareness through TV, newspaper, outdoor displays, social media, cinema public service announcements, media interviews, presentations, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Etching Events, safety fairs, parades, and special events. Information is available on the number of impressions (people viewing ads) provided by media buys. ABTPA is working to improve methods to measure the impact of these campaigns.

Public awareness campaigns, multi-jurisdictional cooperation and methods requiring specialized skillsets held by ABTPA Task Forces have proven effective. One Task Force states that the number of vehicles that were being stolen from their coverage area has decreased significantly in

comparison to the theft numbers prior to the implementation of ABTPA's public awareness campaigns. In FY14, there were a total of 2,504,155 persons exposed to educational information regarding automobile theft and burglary via televisions/monitors mounted at local gas pumps. The data reviewed indicates that ABTPA's various public awareness campaigns are beneficial in reaching a large number of Texans. These campaigns serve as an important proactive approach to combat the problems relating to automobile theft and burglary.

Program Impact

ABTPA has examined the most common methods being used by Task Forces in an attempt to determine their effectiveness. In FY15 ABTPA is working with Task Forces to develop clearer reports to better measure grant impact on combating motor vehicle theft and burglary. This effort will generate more meaningful analysis of the various approaches and ultimately result in more effective Task Force implementation to reduce automobile theft and burglary.

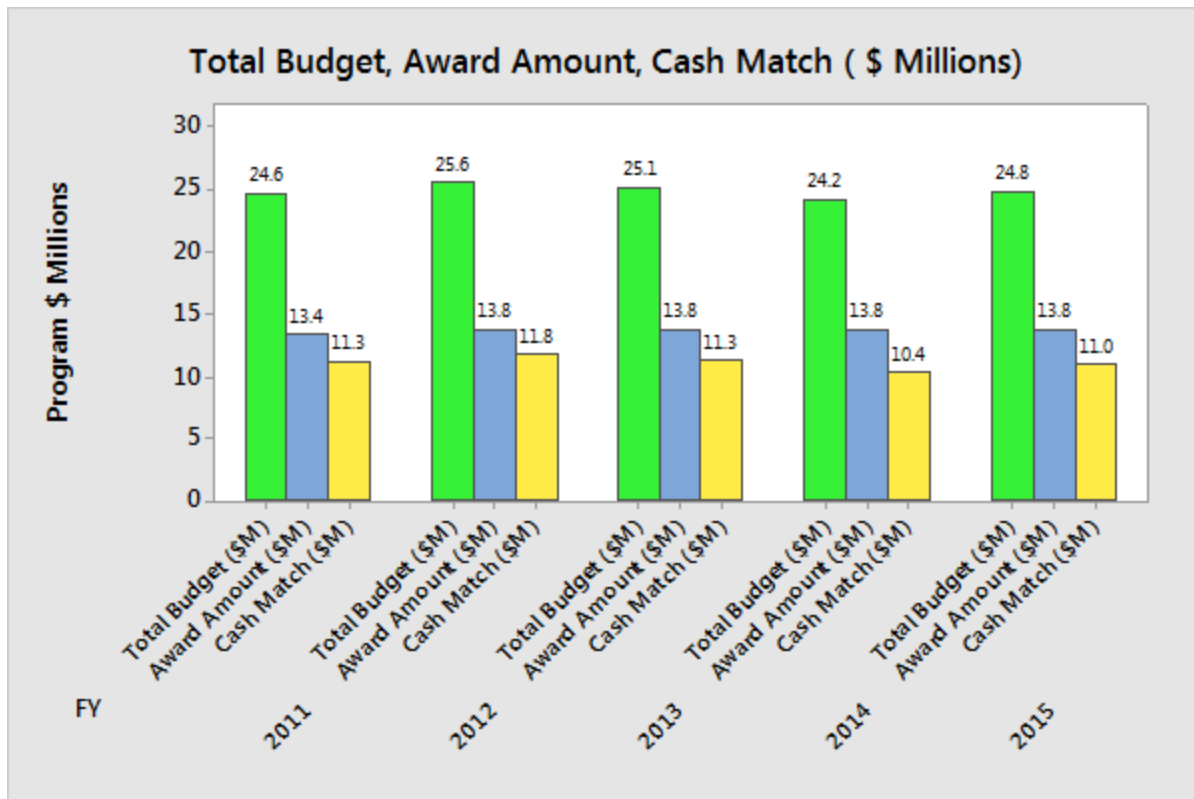
Plan for Providing Financial Support to Combat Motor Vehicle Theft and Burglary

The ABTPA has provided consistent value to the state of Texas since its inception in 1991. It has spearheaded the creation of a collaborative network of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, insurance industry, and the general public all with a common goal of reducing motor vehicle crimes throughout the state. This network is crucial to the continued success of the ABTPA, and it requires continued and expanded funding to build on existing resources and create new motor vehicle theft and burglary reduction initiatives. Successful initiatives currently implemented include:

- Improving cost effectiveness of ABTPA grant administration
- Modernizing technology and equipment
- Leveraging expertise
- Expanding strategic partnerships
- Increasing transparency and accountability

ABTPA Grants

ABTPA awards grants to fund local Task Forces to combat motor vehicle theft and burglary. It promotes public awareness through activities in the local Task Forces. In FY14, ABTPA grants funded over 200 full time positions in addition to equipment and operations costs in the local Task Forces. All Task Forces are required to provide at least a 20% match. Most Task Forces greatly exceed the minimum match amount.

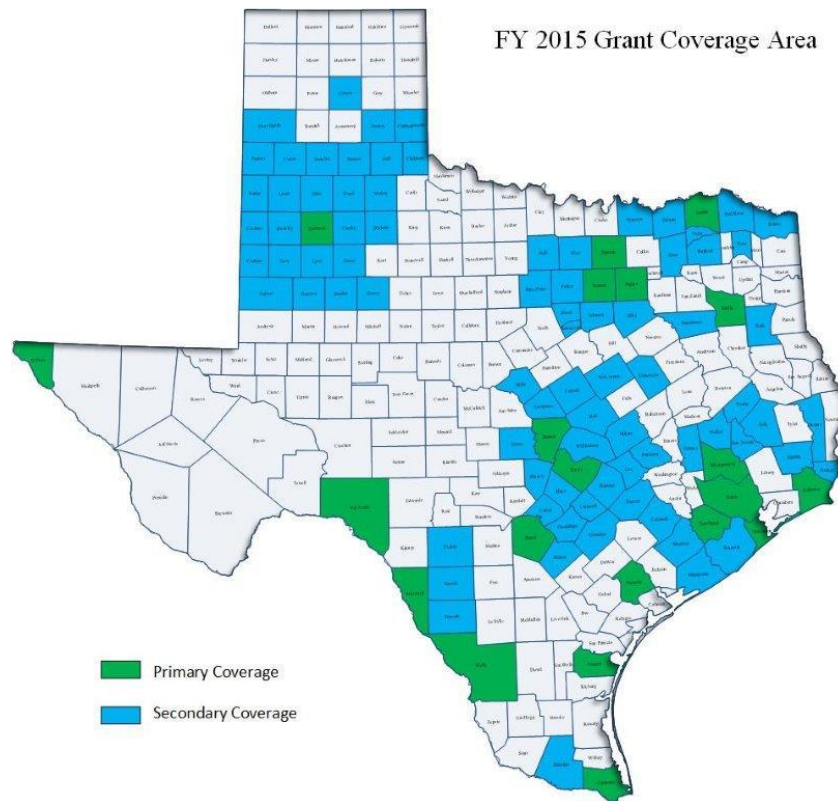


Under current law, ABTPA may provide financial support to law enforcement agencies, local prosecutors, judicial agencies, and neighborhood, community, business, and nonprofit organizations for programs designed to reduce the incidence of economic automobile theft. The ABTPA annually issues a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit applications for funding. Grants are awarded by the ABTPA on a state fiscal year basis. The ABTPA grant RFP is divided into the following five program categories which reflect the statutory purposes of the ABTPA:

- Law Enforcement, Detection and Apprehension
- Prosecution, Adjudication and Conviction
- Prevention, Anti-Theft Devices and Automobile Registration
- Reduction of the Sale of Stolen Vehicle and Parts
- Public Awareness and Crime Prevention

Going forward into the FY16 grant cycle, ABTPA plans to implement an “Intent to Apply” process for new applicants. This process is designed to evaluate those new entities interested in applying for grant funding. ABTPA will continue to strive to make the grant award process as rational, transparent and fair as possible.

Since its inception, ABTPA has funded and managed 657 grants totaling more than \$296 million. In FY15, ABTPA funded 29 grants totaling \$13,800,000 to agencies across the state. Currently funded programs are located in counties that cumulatively account for about 88 percent of the state’s motor vehicle thefts and 87 percent of the state’s motor vehicle burglaries (per 2012 UCR data).



It has been noted that there has been a significant increase in the population as well as the number of registered vehicles in the state of Texas while funding for the ABTPA has remained the same for many years. This has left large areas of the state, including more than half of the border counties outside of the collaborative network of ABTPA.

To address this coverage issue, funds will be awarded based on need and motor vehicle theft and burglary related trends in Texas. ABTPA will work to ensure that underserved/unserved areas of the state are addressed, and seek funds for the growing demands from law enforcement for more resources. ABTPA will work to continue and expand collaboration between law enforcement agencies across jurisdictions.

According to the NICB's "Top 25 Motor Vehicle Theft Hot Spots" report based on metropolitan statistical areas, the Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth and San Antonio areas have the highest incidence of motor vehicle thefts where ABTPA's currently provides funding. The report also provides a clear indication of underserved coverage areas including Odessa, Texarkana, Longview, Wichita Falls, Midland, San Angelo, and Abilene.

Innovation & Technology

To effectively combat motor vehicle theft and burglary, it is important for ABTPA Task Forces to be able to implement new initiatives and make use of emerging technologies. There is a growing need for surveillance equipment, license plate readers, and bait vehicle/trailer equipment throughout the state. It is clear that cross-jurisdictional collaboration requires not only technology resources but also human resources. Criminals work to secure and use technological equipment necessary to successfully perform illegal activities and compromise

public safety. The ABTPA Task Forces and other law enforcement entities need improved investigative intelligence and technology to effectively counter those criminal activities.

Training

The number of appropriately trained law enforcement agents dedicated to motor vehicle theft and burglary has not kept pace with the noted increase in population. ABTPA continues to be the primary funding source of specialized training of law enforcement officers in the investigation of motor vehicle crimes and the recognition of stolen and altered vehicles. More law enforcement officers trained in multijurisdictional collaborative and technological motor vehicle theft detection are needed to continue the solid foundation of expertise to combat motor vehicle crimes and educating their communities about the importance of prevention.

VIN Inspections

House Bill (HB) 2394, enacted during the 83rd Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, required the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to conduct a study of the feasibility of requiring title for trailers, semitrailers, or travel trailers. The study on the *Feasibility of Requiring Title for All Trailers, Semitrailers, and Travel Trailers* found that much of the state is not covered for availability of VIN inspections. ABTPA Task Forces conducted 13,365 VIN inspections in FY14. ABTPA could promote VIN inspection consistently available throughout the state by providing training for qualified agencies, increase coordination with TxDMV, and support increased hours of operations. ABTPA can collect data on individuals not able to pay the fee and recommend potential solutions. People throughout the state need this service so they do not unwittingly participate in motor vehicle theft. The TxDMV report also recognized the role of titles, and therefore a VIN, has in the recovery of stolen trailers/semitrailers. However, those benefits did not outweigh the costs to consumers and governmental entities that would come from mandatory titling of all trailers/semitrailers. ABTPA Task Forces continue to perform the VIN inspections as both assistance to the public and a tool in finding and recovery of stolen vehicles.

Strategic Partnerships

Developing and maintaining strategic partnerships to advance ABTPA's mission is at the forefront of ABTPA's strategic endeavors. Encouraging partnerships with organizations that have a vested interest in the success of ABTPA's mission are vital to reduce auto theft. ABTPA's strategic partnership plan consists of encouraging and expanding collaboration to include TxDMV members, prosecutors, and other members with special knowledge (title experts, dealer license enforcement investigators, etc...) helpful in combating motor vehicle theft and burglary. ABTPA will facilitate discussions and workgroups, attend and present at conferences and workshops of related organizations, associations, state government agencies (DPS, TxDMV, TDCJ, etc...) and law enforcement departments.

Targeted Stakeholders

ABTPA will continue to promote statewide collaboration for the purpose of reducing motor vehicle theft and burglary. Developing and maintaining strategic partnerships at the state level will increase access for local law enforcement to coordinate their activities and improve their techniques. By fostering a working relationship with the targeted state level stakeholders, ABTPA can expand its network of motor vehicle theft and burglary prevention Task Forces, use the resources of the state level collaborating entity, and increase ABTPA's effectiveness within

local communities across the state. ABTPA's strategic partners at the state level are listed below:

Strategic Partner	Issue(s) Addressed
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles	-Increase accountability, provides legal counsel, help improve financial processes, and IT services to ABTPA
TxDMV Vehicle Titles & Registration Division	-Improve access for ABTPA Task Forces to identify multi-jurisdiction title related cases. Public awareness to use NMVTIS (DOJ national title search system)
TxDMV Enforcement Division	-Provide assistance in increasing awareness and education for new and used car dealers
TxDMV Motor Carrier Division	-Provide assistance in increasing awareness to truckers -Find ways to use truckers road presence to assist ABTPA Task Forces
Tax Assessor Collectors Association	-Increase communication and access to inspections in more counties
Texas Sheriffs Association of Texas	-Solicit assistance to improve Task Force governance and transparency of ABTPA
Texas Police Chiefs Association	-Solicit assistance to improve Task Force governance and transparency of ABTPA
Texas District & County Attorneys Association	-Provide prosecutors with opportunities to participate in ABTPA Task Forces, develop grants for special prosecutors in the areas of title washing and burglary intervention, increase training
Texas Association of Vehicle Theft Investigators	-Increase collaborative network and training opportunities to ABTPA Task Forces and other law enforcement agencies; Increase communication and access to VIN inspections in more counties
National Insurance Crime Bureau	-Provide support and intelligence to ABTPA Task Forces

Prosecutor Collaboration

Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces are the foundation of ABTPA's strategy in combining investigative and prosecutorial resources. ABTPA will encourage coordination with prosecutors to increase the success of ABTPA funded programs. ABTPA Task Forces have reported that complex VIN swapping and title fraud cases have failed to garner prosecutor support because of the complexity of the cases and difficulty to link defendants to the crime (i.e. they possessed the keys, etc...). ABTPA will work with its Task Forces and local prosecutors to provide necessary training and resources.

In some jurisdictions the prosecution of vehicle theft cases has relatively low priority. This is due in part because: 1) prosecutors sometimes do not fully appreciate the severity of the

organized crime aspects of modern motor vehicle theft; 2) personnel are limited and consumed with prosecution of violent crimes; 3) vehicle theft as a property crime is less of a priority as opposed to personal crimes; 4) the victim often receives insurance compensation; and 5) vehicle theft prosecutions are often complex and expensive in comparison to the penalties available.

Despite these constraints, prosecution and conviction of motor vehicle crimes is one of the most important means of breaking organized theft rings and reducing the economic incentives of motor vehicle theft and burglary.

Transparency and Accountability

Efforts will be made to fund programs to provide information on local Task Force structures. ABTPA will encourage programs to develop best practices that are accountable and have low administrative costs. Efforts will be made to encourage inclusive programs with the highest possible rate of success using evidenced based evaluation techniques.

Estimate of Funds Required to Implement 2016-2017 Plan of Operation

For the current biennium, ABTPA received dedicated funding of \$14.9 million annually. The funds are being used in three main ways: 1) to fund law enforcement Task Forces to combat motor vehicle theft and burglary; 2) to inform and enlist the public in preventing motor vehicle theft and burglary; and 3) to fund the administration of the ABTPA. Every effort is being used to increase the effectiveness and statewide reach of the funds.

Continuing the current level of funding combined with the enhanced grant administration processes discussed above will maintain current levels of services while seeking to increase effectiveness with strategic partnerships. The ABTPA and current Task Forces will continue to find efficiencies and increase motor vehicle theft reduction activities. Expansion of strategic partnerships with TxDMV divisions and local prosecutors will enhance and formalize the collaborative networks currently performed on an ad hoc basis. ABTPA will use all resources to accomplish its legal mandate to combat motor vehicle theft and burglary.

City and County Contributions

Although grant funded Task Forces must meet a 20% cash match requirement, local contributions have greatly increased over the last five years. Additionally, law enforcement agencies are providing expanded services to citizens in surrounding counties and cities by lending bait equipment to non-Task Force agencies, providing specialized training, providing public awareness activities, and conducting VIN inspections.

2016-2017 Legislative Appropriations Request Exceptional Item

The additional \$10 million in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Legislative Appropriations Request exceptional items list for ABTPA grants would allow for the expansion of current programs and encourage other motor vehicle theft and burglary reduction initiatives. Priorities for expanded operations will be established by the ABTPA board. Examples could include:

Possible Use of Funds	Examples
Border initiatives, full coverage and increased presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase law enforcement officers in all counties along the border - Provide more license plate readers at more locations - Increase the number of cities and counties participating along the border
New motor vehicle theft and burglary prevention technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide funds to pay for the newest GPS based faster license plate readers for ABTPA Task Forces - Provide access to new car code based starting and tracking systems - Upgrade current equipment with the newest technological advances
Increase coverage area through new programs or expanding participating jurisdictions in existing programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide additional grants for new programs or encourage current Task Forces to expand their participation
Improved intelligence software and case management systems to ABTPA Task Forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide access to ABTPA Task Forces to increase their data systems and their tracking
One-time Equipment purchases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow law enforcement agencies access to buy bait cars, LPRs or other new technology
Expanded training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the training for VIN inspections statewide - Increase training for law enforcement and prosecutors
Expand statewide and local public awareness efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide more advertisement coverage across Texas - Provide more information on National Motor Vehicle Title Information System to the public - Provide for market research with measurements for impressions, saturation and impact
Expand use of evidence based practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide for departments to evaluate and measure their programs - Provide funds to research effectiveness of theft and burglary combat methods
Provide for prosecutor assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train for complex title and cross jurisdiction issues - Examine potential for embedded prosecutors on ABTPA Task Forces

Current appropriations are a set amount instead of an estimated appropriation. By statute (Texas Civil Statutes 4413 (37), §10(b)(e)), all insurers pay to the authority a fee equal to \$2 multiplied by the total number of motor vehicle years of insurance for insurance policies delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed by the insurer. Fifty percent of each fee collected may be appropriated only to the authority for ABTPA purposes. Providing an estimated appropriation ensures that one dollar for every policy sold in Texas goes to ABTPA functions. This provision along with unexpended balance (UB within biennium) authority would provide an estimated \$20 million in funding each year of the biennium to prevent and reduce motor vehicle theft and burglary. The ABTPA only receives approximately \$0.73 out of the statutorily required \$2.00 that is needed to accomplish all ABTPA and Task Force objectives.

Insurance companies pay about \$40 million dollars annually on the automobile insurance policies for the stated purpose of supporting efforts to combat motor vehicle theft and burglary. Many Texans are required to reimburse the insurance companies for those costs under Texas Department of Insurance guidelines (TDI Commissioner's Bulletin # B-0035-11). Many citizens believe the entirety of that special assessment should go for the stated purposes. Also, millions of dollars in local taxes are used to support police and sheriff offices working motor vehicle theft and burglary cases. ABTPA provides the collaborative network, specialized training, cross jurisdictional dialog, and equipment to combat and mitigate the disastrous economic losses and collateral criminal networks.